

17 February 1972

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Possible Location of Four American Prisoners in  
Chau Doc Province

1. Four American prisoners of war (POWs) accompanied a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) battalion from O Mountain (VS8070) in Cambodia to a location on Gai Mountain (VS9157) in Chau Doc Province. \* The NVA 150th battalion, commanded by Le Manh, 1st O Mountain in the early morning of 7 February 1972 and crossed the Vinh Te Canal near VS853613. The four prisoners were secured by a chain about 6 meters long at 1.5 meter intervals. They were dressed in black pajamas and were not wearing hats.

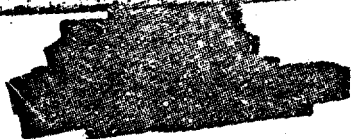
Comment: The prisoners were taken to Gai Mountain because it is considered a secure area by the Government of Vietnam (GVN) and the GVN is therefore not likely to conduct extensive sweep operations there.

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2. At O Ta Soc the prisoners were placed in a cave about 2 by 3 meters in size. \* The gate of the cave was made of wood and barbed wire. The cave was about 300 meters from the base of the mountain, and three tall trees grew close enough to the cave to shade it. Security was provided by a squad of eight Viet Cong guerrillas. According to District level cadres in Tinh Bien District, the prisoners would be kept at O Ta Soc for some time. The cadres said that as of 14 February they were still there. \*\*

 Comment: O Ta Soc is a valley between Giai and Cam Mountains. It runs from VS935565 to VC929582.

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 Comment: According to a subsequent report, the four POWs were still at this location on 16 February.